Biennial report

Study Groups

*Title of the study group:* EULAR Study Group for Risk Factors for RA

*Study Group Leader's name:* Diane van der Woude and Andrew Cope

*Date of annual report submission:* February 2021

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**SUMMARY OF LAST YEAR’S ACTIVITIES**

**EULAR 2019 Annual Congress in Madrid**

*Time:* Friday June 14th 8:00-10:00 AM

*Chairs:* Diane van der Woude and Andrew Cope

*Programme* (20 minutes of presentation and 5 minutes of discussion):

0800  Welcome and introduction

0810  *Predicting arthritis in anti-CCP positive at-risk individuals*

Speakers: Kulveer Mankia and Laurence Duquenne (University of Leeds)

0835  *Prediction of RA development in clinically suspect arthralgia (CSA)*

Speaker: Annette van der Helm-van Mil (LUMC)

0900  *Genetic risk prediction in arthritis*

Speaker: Anne Barton (University of Manchester)

0925  *Risk prediction using the SPARRA questionnaire and other predictive factors*

Speaker: Laurette van Boheemen (Amsterdam UMC)

0950  Concluding remarks and future perspectives

**EULAR 2020 Annual Congress (remote)**

Dagmar Scheel-Toellner (Birmingham): When is a subset a subset? (On new cellular synovial subsets)

Soumya Raychaudhuri (Boston): On the genetic risk for RA, and in particular HLA

Caroline Gronwall: The diversity and hierarchy of different RA autoreactivities

Kulveer Mankia (Leeds): update from the EULAR pre-RA trials taskforce
OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES:

Clinical trials in RA prevention update

**PRAIRI study:** The results of this trial of rituximab in at risk subjects was published in the Annals of Rheumatic Diseases in 2019. This was one of the first pioneering RA prevention studies, led by Danielle Gerlag and Paul Peter Tak.

**TREAT EARLIER:** Trial of methotrexate versus placebo in arthralgia patients has finished recruiting. Follow-up is ongoing.

**APIPPRA:** Last patient last visit was in January 2021. The study is likely to readout in Q2 2021.

**ARIA:** This study, focused on imaging outcomes, has completed recruitment. The study is likely to readout in Q2 2021.

**StopRA:** Led by Kevin Deane and Mike Holers, this study of hydroxychloroquine in at risk subjects is still recruiting.

**STAPRA:** This trial of atorvastatin in at risk subjects, led by Dirkjan van Schaardenburg and Mike Nurmohamed, is currently suspended.

**Strategy documents and trials protocols**

**RA prevention trials: EULAR taskforce.** This group, led by Paul Emery and Kulveer Mankia (Leeds), is submitting the manuscript “EULAR points to consider for conducting clinical trials and observational studies in individuals at-risk of rheumatoid arthritis”

*Scientific Advice Meeting with the Medical Products Agency to Discuss Novel Treatment Strategies in ‘At-Risk’ Rheumatoid Arthritis and Pathways Towards Future Regulatory Guidance*

The purpose of this document is to trigger a meeting with national and European regulatory agencies to initiate a dialogue on new treatment paradigms in rheumatology, which will likely demand novel clinical development and regulatory approaches in terms of eligibility criteria, study design, and endpoints. The longer-term objective of this initiative is to develop a regulatory roadmap for the development and registration of early intervention and preventive therapies in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and other rheumatic diseases. This is being led by the RTCure consortium (EU IMI2 grant No 777357), many of whom are members of the SGFRFRA.

The Arthritis Prevention in the Pre-clinical Phase of RA with Abatacept study trial protocol was published in 2019. Many study group members have contributed.


A revised application to EULAR for “Building an EULAR risk stratification system for Rheumatoid Arthritis development in patients with arthralgia suspicious for progression to RA”, led by Annette van der Helm-van Mil, is in preparation.
Relevant publications by members of the study group:


Successful funding applications

FOREUM grant in call Preclinical Phases of RMDs:


Principal investigator: Pr Raphaële Seror (MD, PhD) Professor of Rheumatology, Paris-Sud University,
Other partners
Dr Marie Christine Boutron (MD, PhD) Inserm Research director in Epidemiology, Paris-Sud
Dr Diane Van der Woude (MD, PhD) and Pr Tom Huizinga (MD, PhD) Rheumatologist, University of Leiden, Netherlands.
Drs. Deshiré Alpízar-Rodríguez (MD, PhD candidate) Rheumatologist and Delphine Courvoisier (PhD) Epidemiologist, Geneva, Swiss. Representatives of SCREEN-RA cohort.

Project duration: 2017-2020